



Citation
to accompany the award of the
Joint Meritorious Unit Award
to the
Headquarters, Combined Task Force Operation Northern Watch

The members of Headquarters, Combined Task Force Operation NORTHERN WATCH, distinguished themselves by exceptionally meritorious achievement from 1 January 1999 to 31 December 1999. During this period, the Combined Task Force demonstrated sustained unmatched superior performance through enforcement of the No-Fly Zone over northern Iraq. The operation distributed over 200 Air Tasking Orders and flew over 7,000 combat and combat support No-Fly Zone enforcement aircraft sorties as a result of astute tactical control and concise real-time guidance to complex Joint Multi-National strike packages. The unrelenting pressure by the Task Force to reduce Iraq's air defense capability in northern Iraq resulted in locating and destroying two enemy SA-6 Transport Erector Launchers and their associated radars. In addition, the force destroyed numerous surface-to-air missiles and anti-aircraft-artillery weapon systems and related support facilities. When Operation ALLIED FORCE required an immediate plus up of aircraft, the Task Force aggressively led this unprecedented deployment and reconstitution of 30 combat and 15 support aircraft to provide an immediate projection of air power in a completely different theater of operations. This mission was accomplished ahead of all timeline requirements. A subsequent rapid redeployment of the Operation NORTHERN WATCH air assets ensured continued enforcement of the northern Iraq No-Fly Zone. Despite competing national security priorities and inventory constraints, the Task Force has succeeded in expending over 900,000 pounds of munitions on Iraqi targets, thereby continuing to suppress Iraqi assets while minimizing collateral damage. The selfless dedication of coalition members ensured the resounding success of the longest No-Fly Zone enforcement effort in US history. By their exemplary performance of duty, the members of Headquarters, Combined Task Force Operation NORTHERN WATCH, have brought great credit upon themselves, their Service, and the Department of Defense.

Given under my hand this 10th day of February 2000


Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff